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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

570 7590 08/12/2008

PANITCH SCHWARZE BELISARIO & NADEL LLP
ONE COMMERCE SQUARE
2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2200
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER	
TRAN, THANG V	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2627	DATE MAILED: 08/12/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,875	11/26/2003	Katsuya Watanabe	10407-72US (A3083MT-US1)	1707

TITLE OF INVENTION: OPTICAL DISC DRIVE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/12/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571) 273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

570 7590 08/12/2008

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or by facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/12/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
TRAN, THANG V	2627	369-044270

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

"Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies _____

- A check is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

5b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103				2627
				DATE MAILED: 08/12/2008

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 570 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 570 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 10/722,875	Applicant(s) WATANABE ET AL.
	Examiner Thang V. Tran	Art Unit 2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment dated 6/25/08.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Louis Sickles on 8/1/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 13:

line 1, delete the term "tangible",

replace lines 2 and 3 with -- having a computer executable program stored thereon, the program is executed by an optical disc drive for focus control to perform the steps of: --,

line 4, replace the term "the" before "focus error" with -- a--,

line 5, replace the terms "the" before "focus shifting" and after "point of" with -- a--,

line 6, replace the term "the" before "data storage" with -- a--,

line 10, replace the term "the" before "control signal" with -- a--, and

line 12, replace the term "the" before "focus" with -- a--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1-13 are allowed over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record, considered alone or in combination, fails to suggest or fairly teach an optical disc drive including a combination of: a focusing shifting section for shifting a focal point of the light by changing a position of a focusing section perpendicularly to a data storage layer of a given optical disc with a control signal which is a trains of pulses; and a control section for generating the control signal in response to a focus error signal such that the focal point of the light is transferred to a focus controllable range in which a focus control is able to be performed on the data storage layer, wherein the control section generates the control signal such that the focal point of the light being shifted toward the data storage layer is decelerated initially at a first acceleration and then at a second acceleration, the absolute value of the second acceleration being smaller than that of the first acceleration and the control signal for decelerating the focal point of the light at the second acceleration at least includes a first type of pulses that accelerate the focal point toward the focus controllable range and a second type of pulses that accelerate the focal point away from the focus controllable range, wherein the control section suspends controlling the focal point of the light after a first peak of the focus error signal is detected at the data storage layer, and wherein the control section further controls the focal point of the light to be shifted toward the data storage layer, in the case where an amplitude of the focus error passes a second peak at the data storage layer, as recited in claim 1; or a method for getting the focal point of light transferred to a focus controllable range by an optical disc drive including a combination of

following step: (a) generating a first control signal in response to a focus error signal and supplying the first control signal to focus shifting section such that the focal point of the light being shifted toward the data storage layer is decelerated at a first acceleration; and (b) generating a second control signal and supplying the second control signal to the focus shifting section after the step (a) such that the focal point of the light is decelerated at a second acceleration and that the absolute value of the second acceleration is smaller than that of the first acceleration and the control signal for decelerating the focal point of the light at the second acceleration at least includes a first type of pulses that accelerate the focal point toward the focus controllable range and a second type of pulses that accelerate the focal point away from the focus controllable range, and wherein the second control signal is not supplied to the focus shifting section after a first peak of the focus error signal is detected at the data storage layer, and wherein the second control signal is supplied to the focus shifting section to shift the focal point of the light toward the data storage layer after a second peak is detected at the data storage layer, wherein the control section further controls the focal point of the light to be shifted in an opposite direction, in the case where an amplitude of the focus error signal crosses a zero level after having reached a second peak at the data storage layer, as recited in claim 11; or a processor for used in an optical disc drive including a combination of: a first shifting control section for generating a first control signal in response to a focus error signal and supplying the first control signal to focus shifting section such that the focal point of the light being shifted toward the data storage layer is decelerated at a first acceleration; and a second shifting control section for generating a second control signal and supplying the second control signal to the focus shifting section such that the focal point of the light is decelerated at a second acceleration

and that the absolute value of the second acceleration is smaller than that of the first acceleration and the control signal for decelerating the focal point of the light at the second acceleration at least includes a first type of pulses that accelerate the focal point toward the focus controllable range and a second type of pulses that accelerate the focal point away from the focus controllable range, and wherein supplying the second control signal to the focus shifting section is suspended after a first peak of the focus error signal is detected at the data storage layer, and wherein the second control signal is further supplied to the focus shifting section to shift the focal point of the light toward the data storage layer after a second peak is detected at the data storage layer, as recited in claim 12; or a computer readable storage medium having computer executable program stored thereon and executed an optical disc drive for focus control to perform a combination of following steps: (a) generating a first control signal in response to a focus error signal and supplying the first control signal to a focus shifting section such that a focal point of a light being shifted toward a data storage layer is decelerated at a first acceleration; and (b) generating a second control signal and supplying the second control signal to the focus shifting section such that the focal point of the light is decelerated at a second acceleration and that the absolute value of the second acceleration is smaller than that of the first acceleration and the control signal for decelerating the focal point of the light at the second acceleration at least includes a first type of pulses that accelerate the focal point toward a focus controllable range and a second type of pulses that accelerate the focal point away from the focus controllable range, wherein supplying the second control signal to the focus shifting section is suspended after a first peak of the focus error signal is detected at the data storage layer, and wherein the second control signal is further supplied to the focus shifting section to shift the

focal point of the light toward the data storage layer after a second peak is detected at the data storage layer, as recited in claim 13. Claims 2-10 are allowed with their respective parent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CITED REFERENCES

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references relate to an optical apparatus for multilayered disc having a focusing control for perform a recording layer search or access based on a control signal having acceleration and deceleration pulses.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thang V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7595. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thang V. Tran/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2627